

Opening Doors

Connecting You to Franklin Public Schools



A Message from the Superintendent

The beginning of a new school year always brings exciting changes and progress.

We began the year with our staff in the newly completed Saber Center for the Performing Arts and it was so exciting to welcome our staff into that new space.

The FPS 1:1 Initiative was launched in the first weeks of school. Students were excited about their new Chromebook technology and we look forward to the opportunities this will provide for our students.

The District celebrated cheering on the Sabers in the new Sullivan Stadium at the high school and we look forward to all of our other teams, students and community members using the field as the year progresses.

We are pleased to share great academic news in this edition with the high school's ACT results and an award for one of our elementary schools (see page 2).

I thank our students, staff and families for your cooperation with the logistical challenges that construction at the high school presented as we started the year (see update page 2).

Great things are happening in the District daily and the 2014-15 year looks to be exceptional.

Dr. Steve Patz, Superintendent

FHS ACT Results

Franklin High School's 2014 ACT score matches its best overall performance, with an average composite score of 23.5.

The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests in English, math, reading and science and is one factor used by colleges to evaluate students' college applications.

Franklin High's composite score matched its highest overall performance from 2012, and average scores in all curricular areas improved upon 2013's performance.

FHS Principal Michael Nowak commented, "We are very pleased with our ACT results. Our performance is the direct result of the collective effort and commitment of our students and teachers."

Nationwide, the state of Wisconsin ranks No. 2 in ACT performance. When compared with all students tested in Wisconsin, FHS's composite score exceeds the state average of 22.1. The number of Franklin High School students taking the ACT increased from 71% of students in each of the previous two years to 79% in 2014.

Student ACT participation will be changing next school year. According to Michael Zellmer, the Franklin Public Schools' Director of Assessment & Learning, "Beginning next year (2015-16), the ACT will become a required state accountability test for 11th grade students in all of Wisconsin public high schools. This means that Franklin's percent of students taking the test will increase to nearly 100% starting next year."

Upcoming Events

- 10/3 Half Day for Students
- 10/17 Educational Foundation Auction
- 10/24 No School
- 10/27 No School for Students
Staff In Service
- 11/8 Cinnamon n' Cider Craft Fair
Forest Park Middle School
9:00 am- 3:00 pm
- 11/26 Half Day of School
- 11/27 No School
- 11/28 No School



Steven Krause Named Saber Center Director

The District welcomes Steven Krause as the Director of the Saber Center for the Performing Arts at Franklin High School.

Steven earned a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Theatrical Design and Technology from Purdue University and served as Muskego High School's PAC manager for ten years.

The 850-seat Saber Center will serve as a high-quality meeting and performance venue for Franklin Public Schools and the Franklin community as a whole.

To reach the Saber Center, please contact the high school at 414-423-4640.

A Message from the Board President



"And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been"
— Rainer Maria Rilke

Summer has turned to fall, and a new school year has begun. Typically, we look forward to new seasons, making plans to enjoy the changes in activities and weather, while at

the same time expressing our opinions when the weather takes an unexpected path. While we realize a new season is always just around the corner, other types of life changes are not so constant. They take time, planning and the work of many people to come to fruition.

Over the last few years an abundance of work has taken place in the Franklin Public School District. Many changes impacting academics, buildings and grounds, human resources, finances and safety have been implemented or are underway. These are significant and exciting times for the community.

As with the seasons, each change brings a different set of challenges, but they also include the opportunity for fresh ideas and time to grow and become stronger. The Board is confident our District leadership will help make any transitions through change go smoothly. Please don't hesitate to speak to a school Administrator, District Director, or Superintendent Dr. Steve Patz with any concerns. Your Board of Education is always available by phone, email or at Board of Education meetings.

The Board welcomes all students, staff and parents to a new school year and invites all Franklin Public School residents to visit our schools during academic events, art and music performances, sporting events, recreational activities, and for volunteer opportunities.

Janet Evans, Board President

Franklin Public Schools is seeking volunteers to serve on a Facilities and Programming Committee. If you are interested, please contact us at 414-525-7603 or Meghan.Dade@franklin.k12.wi.us.

Welcome New District Staff!



Front Row (L-R): Leah Tindall, Amanda Helm, Kara Markert, Hollie Beacker, Gary Mortier, Anne Dolph, Lauren Tracy, Abby Jermstad, Sara Mueller, Stacey Schwichtenberg, Susan Goudreau **Back Row (L-R):** Brandon Wasemiller, Meghan Keyes, Laurel Mosca, Michael Carini, Ashley Crisp, Caroline Hanson, Lara Pernacciaro, Laura Weber, Ross Lennertz

FHS Construction Update

When school began on September 2nd, students and teachers were able to use the new classrooms and the performing arts center, as part of the first phase of the construction project at Franklin High School.

Dr. Patz, District Superintendent said, "We moved into the new additions for this school year as planned. It is gratifying to see this project's first phase take shape and it was great to welcome our students and staff to the new spaces. We thank our community for all of their support throughout this process."

As planned, work inside the building and site landscaping will continue into the 2014-15 school year. The next phase of construction focuses on the main entrance and center atrium, to be completed this fall. Other upcoming remodeling phases will create new art and other general classroom spaces.

It is expected that construction will be completed in early 2015. The District will continue to communicate the construction progress with our students, families and community members throughout the year.

Country Dale Elementary Receives "School of Recognition" Award

Country Dale Elementary was recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as a 2014-2015 Wisconsin Title I School of Recognition.

A school is recognized as "high progress" by falling within the top ten percent of Title I schools experiencing student growth in reading and math.

To receive this School of Recognition award, schools must meet state test-participation and attendance goals and receive Title I funds based on state guidelines.

Director of Instruction Wendy Dzurick says, "Country Dale earning the Wisconsin Title I High Progress Schools of Recognition Award is a powerful testament to the impact strategic selection of interventions has on student growth. Data driven decisions, students engaged in goal setting, and professional development around effective classroom practices created a learning environment that allowed students to achieve to their potential."